

Southern Citizen.

WHAT DO WE LIVE FOR, BUT TO IMPROVE OURSELVES AND BE USEFUL TO ONE ANOTHER?

VOLUME V.]

ASHEBORO', N. C., MAY 22, 1844.

[NUMBER 32.]

THE "CITIZEN" IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY BENJAMIN SWAIM.

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(From the Baltimore American, of May 3.)

THE GREAT WHIG CONVENTION OF RATION.

Four years ago on this spot the people met in council—a multitudinous array—to give warning to an oppressive Administration that its end was at hand; and now, on the same spot, another vast array is congregated, more numerous than the other—and for what? Why have People met again in this place?—What means this imposing attitude of National Sovereignty thus exhibited in the gathering of a representative host brought together from all parts of this great Republic? It is to make good the solemn decrees of the Convention of 1840—to reiterate the principles then maintained, and to make known to all that neither disappointment nor disaster—neither difficulties to be met nor treachery which betrays—nothing within the power of man or the limits of human contingencies—can beat down the indomitable spirits of the Whigs of this Union, or defeat the determined purpose for which they are banded together in the unity of political brotherhood. A country to be served—a Government to be rescued from the control of evil principles and incompetent men—a new basis of constitutional conservatism to be established—a firm foundation to be given to sagacious policy, wise, practical, comprehensive—these are subjects great enough to inspire resolution and energy, to call forth renewed efforts under all circumstances of successful or untoward results, and to keep a great party firm, unwavering, and persevering in the noble purpose to which it is devoted.

But the more immediate purpose of the convention was to confirm the nominations of the National Convention for the high offices of President and Vice President of the United States.

The Convention of Ratification—that is the phrase. The People, through their mass of Representatives, were to pronounce upon the action of the grave nominating body appointed to select candidates for the high places of the Government. The voice of approval was to confirm the choice of those empowered to make a choice, and to pronounce in anticipation the sanction of the whole country upon the selection.

When the resolution was announced declaring the concurrence of the Ratification Convention in the nomination of HENRY CLAY for the Presidency, the sign was one worth a pilgrimage to see. It exhibited an earnest of that long delayed, yet always accumulating acknowledgment due for years of devoted and faithful service, from a grateful country to a worthy son. But we must not anticipate in our notice of this memorable day.

THEODORE FRELINGHUYSEN

for the Vice Presidency—this was the other nomination to be ratified, and most agreeable was the duty to be discharged in this behalf. An eminent citizen now to be made more distinguished—not by reason of his own obtrusion of his pretensions, but by the wise discrimination of his fellow citizens cognizant of his worth and prompt to acknowledge it.—His character and services, already proved and tested, gave promise of future usefulness in a sphere of action more ex-

alted than that in which he had shown the sterling qualities of his nature—and lo! here was the call to summon him to his high place.

It was to be expected that with the example of 1840 and its disastrous results before their eyes, the nominating convention would exercise more than ordinary care in the selection of a candidate for the Vice Presidency. In view of a contingency which, as it has happened once, may happen again—in view of the uncertainty of human life under all varieties of circumstances—it was the duty of the convention to take good care that if by a mysterious dispensation of Providence the chosen of the People should be taken away from us during his term of Presidential service, his mantle should fall upon one worthy to wear it. And well have they performed this duty. Let the resounding acclamations of the ratifying host bear witness—let the approving voice of the Nation give testimony, as it will, to the propriety of the selection! Henry Clay and Theodore Frelinghuysen! What better names are needed as the watchwords of triumphant success? What could a more happy combination be found prognostic of future good to the country?

THE GRAND PROCESSION.

At an early hour of the morning the whole city was stirring, and the almost unnumbered hosts of delegates from all quarters of the Union were seen assembling in their various distinct organizations, and afterwards pursuing their way to the western section of the city to the places designated for the concentration of the divisions into which the grand procession was divided. Soon afterwards the members of the different State delegations were counted for the purpose of determining the award of the National Prize Banner, and the returns were made to the officers appointed to receive and compare.

Between nine and ten o'clock the head of the great procession began to move forward, and as it passed along Baltimore street, the several divisions formed in the cross streets took their allotted stations in the line. This immense array of freemen then moved forward to the music of many fine bands, with badges displayed and banners flying, in the following order:

First Division—First Part.

- The Mayor of the city of Baltimore and President and officers of the Baltimore city delegation came first. Then followed
- The chairman of the General Committee of Arrangements.
- The members of the Sub-Committee of Arrangements.
- Guests especially invited. The Committee of Reception for the National Nominating Convention.
- The members of the National Nominating Convention. The more aged and infirm of the members of the Nominating Convention and of the especially invited guests were provided with carriages for their conveyance.
- The members of the Maryland Whig State Central Committee.
- Members of the Maryland Whig gubernatorial Convention.
- Whig Members of Congress.
- Whig Members of the several State Legislatures.
- Whig Members of the City Council of Baltimore.
- Editors of Newspapers.
- The Baltimore City Clay Club Convention came next.

WHIG BANNER COMMITTEE,

having in charge the object for the gain of which many of the States had contended with a generous emotion, and which had just been awarded to the State of Delaware.

THE NATIONAL PRIZE BANNER!

[We must omit the long descriptions of badges, banners, and processions, with which the Baltimore papers are filled.]

The streets along which the procession passed were decorated with many elegant and appropriate devices and ornaments—many temporary platforms were thrown out from the second and third stories of the fronts of houses—handsomely decorated, and at various intervals elevated ropes were stretched across the streets from house to house, from which were displayed the national flag and other patriotic and tasteful devices. It is unnecessary to say that every position which afforded a view of the procession as it passed was occupied—from the footway to the roof inclusive. The ladies of course occupied the most favored places, and such an assemblage of bright faces and beaming eyes was never before exhibited in our good city. Not only the entire resident population, but the many thousand strangers who had been drawn hither by the interest of the occasion, were concentrated along the single line of street designated for the route of the procession, presenting a spectacle more imposing, grand, and cheering than has probably before been witnessed in this country.

The view from the head of Baltimore street is admitted to have been most striking and imposing. The street throughout its entire length appeared as one dense mass of human beings, and when the procession passed onwards with its countless banners, the waving of ten thousands of handkerchiefs from the windows and platforms on both sides of the street presented to the eye a spectacle the brilliancy and grandeur of which may be imagined but cannot be described.

At the intersection of Gay street, a series of flags were extended from the American office across the street, the centre one of which had on it the device of an eagle bearing a scroll on which were inscribed the names of CLAY and FRELINGHUYSEN. On the reverse were stated in brief terms the leading points of Whig policy, as defined in one of Mr. Clay's speeches.

The Star Spangled Banner.—The identical "Star Spangled Banner," which waved over Fort Mifflin during its bombardment by the British, in 1814, and which suggested the beautiful National Song composed by the late lamented Francis S. Key, was displayed in front of the premises of Mr. C. Hughes Armistead, an object of deep interest to the thousands that passed by.

THE SCENE UPON THE GROUND.

In the order above noted, the head of the Procession reached the ground at Canton. Soon after the various persons invited to take seats on the platform took their places, and the delegations in advance forming around it received their arriving friends with cheers and music. The scene was most animated and exciting, far beyond any description that the pen can give. The whole machinery of the procession described above was finally ranged upon the ground.

The Rev. Mr. Bascom, of Ky., opened the convention with a most impressive prayer, and the immense mass stood uncovered while he appealed to the Throne of Grace. After which, T. Yates Walsh, Esq. on behalf of the Committee of two delegates from each State in the Union, proposed the following officers to preside at the convention:

President.—Jno. M. Clayton, of Delaware.

- Vice Presidents.—E. P. Borbank, of Maine; Geo. T. Davis, of Massachusetts; W. W. Boardman, of Connecticut; Portus Baxter, of Vermont; James N. Reynolds, of New York; H. W. Archer, of Maryland; John Berley, of New Hampshire; Edw. Stanly, of North Carolina; Geo. S. Cryson, of South Carolina; Wm. Belt, of Ohio; Francis E. Chambers, of Kentucky; John J. Harbin, of Illinois; A. S. Williams, of Michigan; Dr. Doyle, of Louisiana; P. L. Edwards, of Missouri; John Preston, jr. of Arkansas; Wm. Rollston, of Alabama; R. C. Weightman, of District of Columbia; Wm. S. Patton, of Rhode Island; J. W. Miller, of New Jersey; T. M. T. McKannan, of Pennsylvania; James Lyons, of Virginia; Wm. C. Smedes, of Mississippi; Geo. C. Jones, of Tennessee; Thos. Butler King, of Georgia.
- Secretaries.—Jos. Baker, of Maine;

George Dawson, of New York; D. C. Wickliffe, of Kentucky; Robert A. Dobbin, of Maryland; Edm. B. Freeman, of North Carolina; J. H. Strong, of Arkansas.

After the officers had taken their seats, and the delegation from Delaware took position in front of the stand, the President of the Convention introduced Reverdy Johnson, Esq. of Maryland, who presented the National Prize Banner to the delegation from Delaware, preceded by an eloquent address.

When Mr. Johnson had concluded, Mr. Johnson, of Delaware, on behalf of the delegation from that State, requested Judge Clayton to respond, which he did in very eloquent terms.

The President of the Convention then introduced the Hon. Ambrose Spencer, who announced to the convention the nominations made on the 1st instant by the National Convention.

The Ratification was the voice of the Young Men's Convention, as the Nomination had been that of the old men.—The response was as loud as tens of thousands of voices could make it.

Judge Berrien, of Georgia, on behalf of the committee appointed to inform Henry Clay of his nomination as the candidate for the Presidency, read to the convention Mr. Clay's letter of acceptance.

The Hon. Daniel Webster, of Massachusetts, now being loudly called for, came forward upon the stand and addressed the convention in his usual eloquent manner.

MR. WEBSTER'S SPEECH.

We can only characterize this speech this morning, and speak of it in a few words. It was a hearty and entire response to the nomination of Henry Clay. Daniel Webster spoke like a true Whig, and a good friend of Henry Clay.

After Mr. Webster had concluded, T. Yates Walsh, Esq., rose, and on behalf of the committee of two from each State in the Union, offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this Convention have received with the most profound and grateful sensibility the tidings of the nomination of Henry Clay as the Whig candidate for the Presidency in the approaching election. That, recognising in this nomination but the expression of the universal and cherished wish of the Whigs, they hail it with the peculiar greeting due to him who is, above all other men, the man of the Union, the history of whose whole life is the announcement and expression of the genuine sentiments, principles, and purposes of the Whig party.

Resolved, That this Convention have heard with the liveliest gratification the nomination of Theodore Frelinghuysen as the candidate for the Vice Presidency, assured that in his fidelity to his country, in his undoubted attachment to the principles of the Whig party, in his eminent service, approved ability, and moral purity, the People have the best security for the honest discharge of the duties of the station for which he has been selected.

Resolved, That this Convention do therefore most cordially ratify and confirm the said nominations, and do pledge themselves and the Whig party to the vigorous support and maintenance of the same, with all the zeal and by all the effort which may become good citizens striving in the cause of their country.

Resolved, That this Convention reaffirm and proudly proclaim their adherence to the distinctive Principles and Measures of the Whig party, now known of all men, and cherished by a large majority of the American People, as follows:

1. A Tariff which shall of itself provide sufficient revenue to pay the debts and defray the expenditures of the Federal Government—such Tariff so adjusted as equally to protect, encourage, and cherish in all its branches the Productive Industry of the Country.
2. A National Currency, which shall be of uniform par value in every part of the Union, and which may be transmitted from one section to any part of another without discount or depreciation, and at the smallest possible cost—to be created by such means and instrumentalities as shall commend themselves to the wisdom of the next Whig

Congress, counselled and aided, not obstructed and thwarted, by a genuine Whig President.

2. A fair and just distribution of the Proceeds of the Public Lands among the several States of the Union, to be by them devoted to purposes of general and permanent utility, thereby protecting the common interests of all from aggression and spoliation, preventing unnecessary and pernicious fluctuations in the Tariff, and putting a stop to the discreditable spectacle of a free and enlightened Nation, year by year, devouring its substance and steadily diminishing the broad patrimony bequeathed to it by the valor and sacrifices of an illustrious ancestry, to supply the waste and want of its annual and ordinary expenditures.

Resolved, That the practical restriction of the Veto power, which has grown by repeated encroachments into a mighty engine of Executive Despotism, the limitation of a President to a single term, the retrenchment of our national expenditures by every practicable means, the reform of the now glaring abuses and corruptions growing out of an unworthy bestowal of Executive patronage, and the general reduction of burthens and increase of benefits resulting to the people from the existence and operations of the federal government, are objects for which the Whig party will unceasingly strive until their efforts are crowned with a signal and triumphant success.

Gov. Metcalfe, of Kentucky, followed and spoke in his usual eloquence for the Whigs of Kentucky and the Union.

The Hon. Thomas Ewing, of Ohio, having been called on, was received with rapturous applause. He briefly vindicated himself for the part he had taken with respect to Mr. Tyler's Administration, and spoke warmly in favor of his old friends and associates—Henry Clay and Theodore Frelinghuysen.

Then came Edward Stanly, of North Carolina; who expressed himself delighted with the scene before him, and with the glorious Whigs around him.—He had been more than satisfied with the nominations, and North Carolina would stand by them.

Mr. Webster made a second speech at another part of the stand, and was followed by Messrs. Boits, Crittenden, Huntington, and Stewart.

A resolution was adopted that the next Young Men's Convention should be held in the city of Philadelphia; and after a few words from Mr. Boardman, of Connecticut, the Committee of Ratification adjourned, sine die.

NEUTRAL GROUND.

"A life of great length and experience has satisfied me," said Mr. Clay, at Wilmington, "that all parties aim at the common good of the country." And such must be the conviction of every unprejudiced mind. What is there—what can there be—to cause the mass of the people to desire any thing but good to their country? They can never do, or permit, any act against the interest of their country, except through the mistakes or deceit of leaders in whose hands their power is entrusted.

There is one ground on which the great body of the Whig and Democratic parties can meet and mingle with all the cordiality of brethren and compatriots. It is high and holy ground, where no difference is permitted to exist; for difference there would be treason to our common country. They unite in a sentiment of devotion to the Union.—"Union at all hazards" is one of the solemn doctrines of Henry Clay; recently reiterated before an assembled multitude of his fellow citizens of North Carolina, of all parties; responded to by every genuine Whig, and cherished, we doubt not, with an equal enthusiasm by the "original panel" of the Democracy.

True, there are some fanatical men in the Northern country, and some Fanny Wright locofocos infesting the Northern cities, as well as ambitious, selfish, wrong headed men in the South, whose course and aim are to weaken the attachment of the people to their Union. But they cannot breathe treason enough to affect the political atmosphere, except in the small space which surrounds their own persons.—Greenborough Patriot.